

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 L-03

OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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P R 091649 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8040

INFO NAVELECSYSCOM WASHDC

CHESNAVFACENCOM WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONROVIA 2418

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, OVIP, LI

SUBJECT: ANNOUNCEMENTS/ PUBLICITY RELATING TO OMEGA
AGREEMENT: PRESIDENT TOLBERT' S VISIT

REF: A. MONROVIA 2341; B. MONROVIA 2149

1. EMBASSY HAS NOW RECEIVED NOTE DATED MAY 3, 1973, FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS CONFIRMING THE DESCRIPTION OF THE OMEGA SITE AS " NORTH OF PAYNESVILLE, CENTERED APPROXIMATELY 6 DEGREES 18.2' NORTH WA QP DEGREES 39.7' WEST." MFA' S NOTE DESIGNATED GOL MINISTRY OF LANDS AND MINES AS COUNTERPART AGENCY FOR OMEGA TEAM (FROM EARLIER CONVERSATIONS WITH MFA COUNSELOR WINSTON TUBMAN, IT APPEARS THAT GOL INTENDS DESIGNATE DIFFERENT MINISTRIES AS OMEGA COUNTERPARTS DEPENDING ON STAGE OF OMEGA' S PROGRESS: THAT IS, FOR CLEARING, GRUBBING, ETC., LANDS AND MINES; FOR CONSTRUCTION STATE, PROBABLY MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS;

OPERATIONAL STAGE, PERHAPS PUBLIC UTILITY AUTHORITY (TELECOMMUNICATIONS DIVISION) OR MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TRANSPORTATION.)

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2. NEITHER EMBASSY NOR GOL HAS YET GIVEN ANY PUBLICITY
LOCALLY TO OMEGA. AS WASHINGTON AGENCIES AWARE, JOHN KING
FROM OMEGA PROJECT OFFICE IS NOW IN LIBERIA SUPERVISING
AGRIMECO'S CLEARING, GRUBBING AND DRAINAGE WORK ON THE
SITE. PRESENT PLANS ARE TO ANNOUNCE THE PROJECT LOCALLY
AT AS YET TO- BE- SCHEDULED CEREMONIES INVOLVING U. S. AMBASSADOR
AND GOL OFFICIALS. HOWEVER, PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S FORTHCOMING
VISIT TO U. S. MAY OFFER MORE APPROPRIATE OCCASION. REF A
OUTLINES POTENTIAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS PRESIDENT TOLBERT
MIGHT RAISE AT TIME HIS JUNE 5 VISIT WITH PRESIDENT NIXON.
TO THE EXTENT HE DOES SO, THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITY FOR
GOOD PUBLICITY ILLUSTRATIVE US- GOL PARTNERSHIP IN
DEVELOPMENTAL EFFORT. CONSTRUCTION HERE AND SUBSEQUENT
OPERATION AT U. S. GOVERNMENT EXPENSE OF MULTI- MILLION
DOLLAR OMEGA STATION COULD BE CHARACTERIZED AS YET ANOTHER
EXAMPLE OF U. S. INTEREST IN LIBERIA.
WE UNDERSTAND, FOR
EXAMPLE, THAT LIBERIAN OMEGA STATION AGREEMENT IS UNIQUE
AMONG OTHERS NEGOTIATED WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS IN THAT
USG IS ASSUMING ALL COSTS OF CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION
WITH EXCEPTION ONLY OF LAND ACQUISITION COSTS.) THE
ESTABLISHMENT IN LIBERIA OF A STATION WHICH WILL ASSIST
THE SHIPS OF ALL NATIONS BY AFFORDING THEM A TOOL FOR
MORE PRECISE NAVIGATION AND DETERMINATION OF LOCATION IS
PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE BECAUSE OF LIBERIA'S PROMINANCE
AS THE COUNTRY OF REGISTRY OF THE LARGEST MERCHANT MARINE
FLEET IN THE WORLD.
MANFULL

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